

Report from Devon County Council

Sampford Courtenay Parish Council - 5th November 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

The local consultation has now finished. The scheme preferred by DCC is called "New Devon" or 9-1-1. It is comprised of the two current unitary councils Plymouth and Torbay, and then 9 separate areas within Devon county including Exeter. The final proposal to be submitted will be voted on at a full council meeting on 14th November, with the deadline for submitting 28th November. All city, district and borough councils across Devon will also submit their preferences for reorganisation. West Devon Borough council has a scheme called 4-5-1 which is their preference and likely to be submitted. (you can view the details of the scheme on WDBC website). The government will review the proposals and will decide on how the local authorities are organised. They are due to announce findings next summer.

Link attached below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/a-stronger-future-shaped-by-communities-devon-unveils-leading-option-for-local-government-change/>

Pothole Repair Trial

Devon Highways have just completed a trial to fill all potholes within a 500metre range whilst workmen, materials and equipment are on site and not only those potholes with safety defect markings. Two Devon sites were chosen for the trial including parts of our division of Hatherleigh and Chagford. We await the outcome of the trial to see if this method for repair can be rolled out across the county. Also, here's my regular reminder to always report potholes, blocked drains, etc. on the 'report a problem' web page. Link attached below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/pothole-repair-trial-starts-in-devon/>

Fire Service – Co-Responder Scheme

Discussions continue regarding the cancellation of the fire service co-responder scheme and a possible solution in favour of a voluntary community responder scheme. This change is being raised by the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny committee with DCC. Link attached below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/scrutiny-urges-ambulance-service-to-stop-plans-to-replace-fire-co-responders-with-volunteers/>

Okehampton Interchange –I recently visited the site of the new station to see first-hand the progress being made. This will be a major improvement in local rail travel options in West Devon. The schedule for opening next summer is on track. Bus routes to stop at the new station are being planned/discussed.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/okehampton-interchange-taking-shape-with-lift-shaft-and-footbridge-installed/>

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